

VI.—*Remarks on some recent Collections of Birds made by Mr. G. L. Bates in Cameroon.* By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, M.B.O.U.

(Plate II.)

THE Natural History Museum has recently received a collection of birds from Cameroon collected by Mr. Bates, and the following notes refer to this and to another collection made in 1908-9.

In this paper only the Passerine Birds are dealt with; the total number of species in the collections amounts to 156 and these are represented by 588 specimens.

Mr. Bates is well known to have contributed to our knowledge of the Birds of the former German colony of Cameroon. From 1902 onwards*, papers on his collections either by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe or by himself have followed one another in a constant stream, and it is to his indefatigable labours that we owe most of our knowledge of the avifauna of that country.

In the present paper I have only noticed those species about which there is some special interest or which have not previously been sent home by Mr. Bates.

The collections were all made in the southern part of Cameroon, chiefly on the Rivers Bumba, Nyong, and Ja. A map showing these localities and others where Mr. Bates has collected will be found on Plate XI. of 'The Ibis' for 1908.

The following species and subspecies are here described for the first time:—*Apalis jacksoni minor*, *Apalis ansorgei*, and *Bradypterus grandis*.

Heterhyphantes preussi (Reichenow). (Plate II. figs. 2, 2 a, 2 b.)

Symplectes preussi Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, p. 442 [Victoria, Cameroon] (♂).

* The previous papers describing Mr. Bates's collections will be found in 'The Ibis,' 1902, p. 89; 1904, pp. 88, 591; 1905, pp. 89, 461; 1907, p. 416; 1908, pp. 117, 317, 558; 1909, p. 1; 1911, pp. 479, 581; 1914, pp. 169, 495.



1 ♂



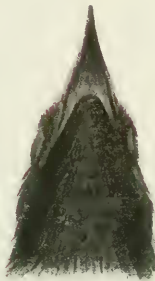
2 ♂



3 ♂



1.b ♀



2.b ♀



3.b ♀



3.c ♂



1.a ♀



2.a ♀



3.a ♀

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1. HETERHYPHANTES INSIGNIS.
2. " PREUSSI.
3. " DORSOMACULATUS.

Sycobrotus herberti Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 88 (1907) [Pompari, R. Welle].

Phormoplectes dorsomaculatus Sharpe (nec Reichw.), Ibis, 1908, p. 349.

Symplectes auricomus Sjöst. Kongl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl. xxvii. no. 1, p. 86, pl. viii. (not vii.) (1895) [Cameroon]. (Immature female.)

Hab. Known from West Africa: Cameroon, and the River Welle.

This species is quite distinct from *H. insignis* (Sharpe), with which it has been generally united, by Dr. Reichenow and others [*cf.* Vög. Afr. iii. p. 36 (1904)].

H. preussi (Reichenow).

♂. Forehead and crown golden brownish-orange, shading into yellow on the occiput and nape; sides of the head, neck, and throat black.

♀. Forehead, superciliary bands, sides of the head and throat black; middle of the crown, occiput, and nape yellow.

H. insignis (Sharpe).

♂. Forehead, crown, and occiput chestnut; sides of the head black.

♀. Forehead, crown, occiput, nape, and throat black.

Heterhyphantes insignis (Sharpe). (Plate II. figs. 1, 1 *a*, 1 *b*.)

Sycobrotus insignis Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, pp. 117, 253, pl. vi. fig. 1 [Mt. Elgon], ♀.

Symplectes croconotus Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, p. 185 [Buca, Cameroon], ♀; Sjöst. Kongl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl. xxvii. no. 1, p. 88, pl. ix. (not viii.) (1895) [Cameroon].

Symplectes castanicapillus Sjöst. Orn. Monatsb. i. p. 43 (1893) [Cameroon]; id. Kongl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl. xxvii. no. 1, p. 88 (1895).

Heterhyphantes insignis Bannerman, Ibis, 1915, p. 516 [Cameroon Peak].

The range extends from East Africa to Cameroon.

Heterhyphantes dorsomaculatus (Reichenow). (Plate II. figs. 3, 3 *a*, 3 *b*, 3 *c*.)

Symplectes dorsomaculatus Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb.

1893, p. 177 [Jaunde, Cameroon] ; id. J. f. O. 1896, pl. iv. upper fig., ♀.

The male resembles the male of *H. preussi* (Reichw.), but the entire top of the head and nape are golden yellow ; the throat is black, partly yellow on the middle of the basal portion, and the rump is black instead of yellow.

The female differs from the female of *S. preussi* in having the crown as well as the forehead black and only the occiput yellow ; while the chin and middle of the throat are yellow, the sides of the head and sides of the neck only being black ; rump black.

Apparently confined to West Africa : Cameroon.

Hyphantornis aurantius (Vieill.).

According to the most recent works the female of this species is said to be similar to the male, but with the upper parts olive-green. In the British Museum there are two females of this species which have the appearance of being fully adult ; in these birds the chin, throat, fore-neck, and sides of the head are pale dull olive-yellow, and the rest of the underparts are white, greyish on the sides and flanks.

Sitagra ocellaria crocata Hartl.?

Specimens of a subspecies of *S. ocellaria* agree with the description of *Ploceus ocellarius brachypterus* given by Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. p. 47 ; but the bird described by him is not *Ploceus brachypterus* Swains. (Birds W. Afr. i. p. 168, pl. x.) The latter has the entire crown and nape golden orange-brown and a differently shaped culmen, while in the present form the forehead and crown are golden-yellow and the occiput is olive-yellow like the nape ; the culmen, moreover, is nearly straight, not curved as in *S. brachypterus*.

Malimbus coronatus Sharpe.

Immature males and females in first plumage have the bill light horn-colour instead of black, the lower mandible in dry skins being whitish. In *both sexes* there is an orange-brown patch on the crown which is apparently

replaced by black feathers at a later stage in both sexes, though in the male the crown eventually becomes scarlet.

The adult female is black, much like *Melanopteryx maxwelli* Alexander in general appearance, but the bill is stouter, the culmen more curved, the basal portion of the feathers of the mouth darker grey and the wing longer, 85 mm. or more, while in *M. maxwelli* the wing is less than 80 mm.

Malimbus cassini Elliot.

The female of this species does not appear to have been described. Mr. Bates has sent home two examples marked female, both of which appear to be in immature plumage. The general colour is black, with the chin, throat, and chest mixed with pale orange-red, especially in one which seems to be the younger bird of the two.

Malimbus malimbicus (Daud.).

Malimbus nigrifrons Hartl. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1908, p. 351.

The characters pointed out by Sharpe as distinguishing *M. nigrifrons* Hartl. are no doubt merely individual.

Specimens from northern Angola collected by W. J. Ansorge have the lower breast and belly washed with grey rather more markedly than in any bird from Cameroon.

Camaroptera superciliaris Fraser.

The type of this species procured by Fraser on Fernando Po is in the British Museum. I have little doubt that *C. flavigularis* Reichenow, also from Fernando Po, is founded on young examples of the same bird. Three specimens collected by Boyd Alexander and E. Scimund agree exactly with Dr. Reichenow's description and figure of his *C. flavigularis*, and are no doubt quite immature birds, as is shown by the texture of the flank-feathers, which are very soft and downy. As in *C. superciliaris*, the middle of the belly is pure white.

C. superciliaris kamerunensis Reichw. Orn. Monatsb. xx. p. 29 (1912) from Bipindi, Cameroon, is a tolerably distinct race, the underparts being washed with grey. This character

is noticeable in quite young birds, which are easily recognisable from the young of *C. superciliaris* by their darker underparts.

Outside Fernando Po, the true *C. superciliaris* appears to occur in the eastern Congo Forest, where Woosnam procured an adult male example. There are also three specimens from the Gold Coast and one, a male, from Yonnibanna, Sierra Leone, obtained by Major H. J. Kelsall. The last-named bird was referred to by him ('Ibis,' 1914, p. 206) as typical *C. superciliaris*, but it seems to be rather more brilliantly coloured than any bird from Fernando Po, while the bill is shorter and rather less stout. These differences may, however, be individual.

Birds procured by W. J. Ansorge at N'Dalla Tando, northern Angola, appear to be referable to *C. s. kamerunensis*, but the breast and sides of the body are washed with a rather more olive-grey tint; one male bird, however, from the River Ja, Cameroon, is inseparable in this respect.

C. s. ugandæ S. Clarke [Bull. B. O. C. xxxiii. p. 136 (1914)] has been separated on account of its whiter belly and longer tail.

Apalis jacksoni minor, subsp. n.

Similar to *A. jacksoni* Sharpe, but considerably smaller, the black on the chin and throat narrower and confined to the middle portion of the latter and less extended towards the chest; white tips to the tail-feathers narrower, those of the outer pair about 12 mm. as compared with about 24 mm. in *A. jacksoni*. Iris greyish-brown; bill black; feet light flesh-colour.

<i>A. jacksoni</i> .		<i>A. j. minor</i> .			
Wing.	Tail.	Wing.	Tail.		
mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.		
5 males . . .	54-56	60-63	2 males . . .	49-50	50-53
2 females . .	51	50	4 females . .	47-48	44-47

Typical examples of *A. jacksoni* from East Africa and Uganda were met with by the late W. J. Ansorge at N'Dalla Tando, northern Angola. *A. j. minor* was met

with at Esamesa and Bitye on the River Ja, Cameroon, 1500–2000 ft. A female was also procured by the late Boyd Alexander at Angu on the Welle River (about Lat. 24° E., Long. 4° N.).

Types in the British Museum. ♂ ♀. Bitye, River Ja, 8. xii. 12. Nos. 5148, 5149.

Apalis ansorgei, sp. n.

Adult male. Near *A. nigrescens* Jackson, and, as in that species, the four outer pairs of tail-feathers are white, but the crown and upperparts are grey tinged with brownish, instead of deep brown. Iris light red; bill black; feet burnt-sienna. Wing 48, tail 50 mm.

Hab. North Angola.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, No. 774. N'Dalla Tando, N. Angola, 15. ix. 08. W. J. Ansorge Coll.

Apalis rufigularis (Fraser).

Sharpe has already pointed out in 'The Ibis,' 1908, p. 320 that his *Euprinodes leucogaster* (1904) is synonymous with *E. schistaceus* Cassin (1859); also that *E. olivaceus* (Strickl.) (1844) is founded on young examples of *E. rufigularis* (Fraser) (1843). He did not, however, suspect that *E. schistaceus* and *E. rufigularis* were respectively the male and female of one and the same species.

All the adult grey-throated specimens before us, eight in number, are males, and there are several immature examples marked as males which have grey feathers making their appearance on the throat.

All the rufous-throated specimens, sixteen in number, are females with the exception of three, viz., two from Fernando Po collected by E. Seimund and Boyd Alexander respectively, and one from N'Dalla Tando, northern Angola, procured by W. J. Ansorge. I believe that in these three instances the sex has been incorrectly determined and have little doubt that the grey-throated and red-throated birds are of one species and should be known as *A. rufigularis* (Fraser), that being the oldest name. Mr. Bates is certainly of this opinion (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1911, p. 616).

In the Orn. Monatsb. xx. p. 28 (1912) Dr. Reichenow described his "*Apalis rufogularis kamerunensis*" from southern Cameroon which must be added to the synonymy of *A. rufogularis* Fraser, the type-specimen of which, from Fernando Po, is in the British Museum.

***Bradypterus grandis*, sp. n.**

Adult male. With the general appearance of *B. graueri* Neumann, but slightly larger and with an unusually long tail composed of ten instead of twelve feathers. The rather large blackish spots on the chest are continued over the throat to the chin, but are not so rounded or so numerous as in *B. graueri*; an indistinct brownish-white band above the eye and faintly indicated behind; entire upperparts dark brown, with the rufous tinge less pronounced than in *B. graueri*; lesser and median wing-coverts with brownish-buff margins; ground-colour of the throat and the middle of the breast and belly pure white; sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts olive-brown, the last-named paler. Iris brown; bill black, grey beneath; feet grey.

Total length 190 mm.; wing 66; tail 79; tarsus 28.

Type in the British Museum. ♂ ad. Biteye, River Ja, 2000 feet, 24.iii.14. No. 5782.

Since the publication of my notes on the genus [Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. p. 354 (1910)] a large number of new names have been added; the descriptions of all these have been examined, but none in any way resemble the bird described above except *B. graueri*, which has very distinct eyebrow stripes prolonged above the ear-coverts.

***Bradypterus brachypterus centralis* Neum.**

Bradypterus brachypterus centralis Neum. Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 55 (1908) [Lake Kivu].

Four specimens procured by Mr. G. L. Bates at Akonolinga, River Njong, in the interior of Cameroon, appear to belong to this form, having much darker brown upperparts than in typical *B. brachypterus* and with only a trace of a rufous wash on the rump and upper tail-coverts, the black spots on the foreneck more pronounced, and the flanks and

under tail-coverts less rufous than in *B. b. abyssinicus* Blundell & Lovat. There are evidently several geographical forms of this species, but without further material they are difficult to define.

Schœnicola apicalis (Cab.).

Schœnicola brunneiceps Reichw. Orn. Monatsb. xv. p. 172 (1907) [N. Uganda].

S. brunneiceps is without doubt based on an immature specimen of *S. apicalis*. There is a young bird from Buddu, Uganda, in the Jackson Collection which agrees exactly with the description, while other adults from the same locality are typical *S. apicalis*.

Turdinus rufipennis (Sharpe).

Turdinus albipectus minutus van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 126 [Mabira Forest].

Turdinus minutus van Someren, Ibis, 1916, p. 468.

In the 'Transactions' of the Zool. Soc. xix. pp. 379-380, I discussed the position of *Turdinus fulvescens* Cassin and *T. cerviniventris* Sharpe at some length. Subsequently ('Ibis,' 1911, p. 624) Mr. Bates, who had examined the type-specimen of *T. fulvescens* Cassin in the Museum of the Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, pointed out that Cassin's name was referable to the species with no white on the breast and not to the white-breasted form as I had supposed. My mistake arose from the fact that in the British Museum there are *two* examples of *Turdinus* collected by Du Chaillu on the Camma River (?) and marked "*Turdirostris fulvescens* Cass." in G. R. Gray's handwriting. These rather soiled specimens were believed to be co-types of Cassin's species, and one undoubtedly is so; but the second represents a different species, viz., the white-breasted form *T. rufipennis* Sharpe. Mr. Bates corrected this mistake, but did not explain how it had arisen.

In 'The Ibis,' 1916, p. 468, Dr. van Someren denies the identity of *Turdinus barakæ* Sharpe from Toro with *T. rufipennis* (Sharpe) from Gaboon [*cf.* Ogilvie-Grant, Trans.

Zool. Soc. xix. p. 379 (1910)]. He even goes so far as to say that "no birds in any way resembling *T. barakæ* have been procured in Angola, Cameroon, or anywhere on the west coast." I am quite at a loss to understand what he can mean by making such an incorrect statement. I write with the whole series of *Turdinus* spread out geographically before me, and the identity of Gaboon and Cameroon birds (*T. rufipennis* Sharpe) with those from the Upper Congo (*T. albipectus* Reichenow) and from Toro district (*T. barakæ* Jackson) is obvious.

Dr. van Someren had access to the series in the British Museum, which makes his positive statement more difficult to understand. As regards his *Turdinus albipectus minutus* from the Mabira Forest, it appears to be merely a rather small female example of *T. rufipennis* in which the sex has been wrongly determined, and it can be *exactly* matched by a female from Cameroon with a wing measuring 66 mm. (*i. e.* 1 mm. more). It is incredible that the Mabira Forest should contain three so closely allied subspecies, viz. *T. barakæ*, *T. minutus*, and *T. albipectus* as Dr. van Someren asserts, and I am absolutely convinced that all these are merely synonyms of *T. rufipennis*.

In a series of twenty-three specimens from Cameroon the wing-measurements are as follows:—10 ♂, 70·5–76 mm., average about 73·5 mm.; 7 ♀ imm., 66–74 mm., average about 70 mm.; 4 ♂ imm., 64·5–67 mm.; 2 ♀ imm., 67 & 68 mm.

Turdinus ugandæ van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. p. 125 (1915) [Uganda Forest], is at most a subspecies of *T. fulvescens* (Cassin). The presence of grey shaft-streaks or stripes on the feathers of the throat is a somewhat uncertain character; though found on most Cameroon birds, it is indistinct or absent on individuals from northern Angola and the Gold Coast.

Cossypha verticalis melanonota (Cab.).

It seems doubtful if *Cossypha melanonota* (Cab.) is really separable from *C. verticalis* Hartl., many of the former col-

lected by Mr. Bates having the back greyish-black, not deep black. He obtained examples of both forms, irrespective of sex or season. Sharpe arrived at practically a similar conclusion (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 124).

***Saxicola salax* (Verr.).**

Mr. Bates has sent several examples, both male and female, of this species from Akonolinga, Nyong River, eastern Cameroon. The average wing-measurement of six males is 68 mm.

The average wing-measurement of thirty-four specimens of *Saxicola salax* from Kilimanjaro, Lake George, Ruwenzori, Uganda, Kikuyu Ravine, Kenia, and Lake Naivasha is 71 mm.

The average of twelve male specimens from the Peak of Cameroon and Fernando Po is 73·5 mm. These represent the slightly larger race named *Pratincola pallidigula* Reichenow.

Mr. Bannerman, 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 498, has kept up this name, and has given certain wing-measurements in support, but from carefully taken wing-measurements we find the average is 73·5 mm. in twelve male specimens from the Peak of Cameroon and Fernando Po.

***Xenocichla leucolæma* Sharpe.**

Xenocichla leucolæma Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 10 (1902); Ogilvie-Grant, Tr. Zool. Soc. xix. p. 383 (1910).

Phyllastrephus ugandæ Reichw. Orn. Monatsb. xv. p. 200 (1907) [Entebbe].

Since the notes in the Ruwenzori Report were published in 1910, the British Museum has received, through the kindness of Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith, a female example of this species from Mpumu, Uganda. In this bird the wing, which has been injured by shot, measures at least 76 mm. (= 3 inches), whereas in the type of *X. albigularis* Sharpe, from Fantee, the wing measures 68 mm. (= 2·7 inches). That the former species is synonymous with the latter still requires confirmation.

Another male example was procured at Bitye, River Ja, on the 29th of August, 1911; the first sent by Mr. Bates

was also a male shot in the same locality on the 31st of December, 1905.

I have examined the series in the Tring Museum, but they do not throw any further light on the matter.

P. ugandæ Reichw., from Entebbe, is undoubtedly the same as *X. leucolæma* Sharpe, from Toro.

Xenocichla scandens orientalis Hartl.

Xenocichla orientalis Hartl. J. f. O. 1883, p. 425 [Tamaja, near Tingasi (*Emin*)].

Phyllastrephus scandens orientalis Reichw. Vög. Afr. iii. p. 398 (1904).

Mr. Bates has sent several examples of this species, which ranges from Tingasi and the Welle River, in the north-western portion of the Belgian Congo, to the Shari River and the Ubangi River district south of Lake Chad; thence it is found southward to Cameroon.

I have examined the type-specimen of *X. orientalis* Hartlaub which is in the Tring Museum. It is a female with a wing-measurement of 94 mm.

The range of *X. s. scandens* extends from Senegambia to the Niger.

From *X. s. scandens* the present form is easily recognised by its dark grey head, dark greyish-olive back, and nearly white breast and belly, faintly streaked with very pale yellow.

The wing-measurements are as follows:—

<i>X. s. scandens.</i>		<i>X. s. orientalis.</i>	
♂. Wing.....	102-112	♂. Wing	95-105
♀. „	101 & 104	♀. „	93-100

Alseonax epulatus (Cassin).

Butalis epulatus Cassin, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1855, p. 326, et 1857, p. 35 [Moonda River, Gaboon].

Alseonax epulatus Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 131 (1879).

Alseonax flavipes Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 522.

There can be no doubt that *A. flavipes* Bates is founded

on adult examples of *A. epulatus* Cassin. In younger birds the legs are brown, while in adults they are yellow. This is proved by specimens collected by the Ruwenzori Expedition in the Semliki Valley, and also by birds from Cameroon.

There are two typical examples of *A. epulatus* in the British Museum procured by Du Chailu on the Muni River, Gaboon. The type was described from the Moonda River a few miles farther south. I have examined examples from Cameroon, Spanish Guinea, Gaboon, Libókwa and Bámibili, Welle River, and Fort Beni, Semliki Valley.

***Alseonax fantisiensis* Sharpe.**

Alseonax fantisiensis Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 131 (1879) [Fantee: *A. Swanzy*. Type in the British Museum.]

The paler grey species seems to occur together with the dark grey *A. epulatus* over a great part of its range.

Hab. I have examined specimens from the Gold Coast, Cameroon, Gaboon, and Fort Beni in the Semliki Valley.

***Alseonax comitatus* (Cassin).**

Butalis comitatus Cassin, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1857, p. 35 [Muni River, Gaboon].

Alseonax comitatus Ogilvie-Grant, Tr. Zool. Soc. xix. p. 392 (1910) [East Mpanga Forest, Fort Portal, and Semliki Valley].

Pedilorhynchus comitatus Reichenow, Vög. Afr. ii. p. 461 (1903).

Pedilorhynchus stuhlmanni Reichenow, t. c. p. 460.

Pedilorhynchus stuhlmanni camerunensis Reichenow, t. c. p. 461.

Pedilorhynchus camerunensis Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 447.

Alseonax ituriensis Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. xvi. p. 191 (1908) [Avakubi, Ituri River].

Mr. Bates collected an adult pair, as well as immature and young examples, on the River Ja, Cameroon.

Three specimens of this species were procured by Alexander at Gudima, on the Upper Welle River, about 280 kilometres to the north-east of Avakubi on the Ituri River. There are

also two specimens collected by the Ruwenzori Expedition, one in the Mpanga Forest, Fort Portal, and the other at Fort Beni, in the Semliki Valley.

The wing-measurements are: ♂ 66-69 mm., ♀ 63-67 mm.

Hab. Cameroon and Gaboon eastwards to Uganda, the Ituri River, and Upper Welle River.

Dr. Reichenow has separated this species from *Alseonax* under the new generic name *Pedilorhynchus*, on account of its stouter bill and the 2nd primary quill being shorter than the 8th.

In *A. comitatus* the 2nd quill is slightly shorter than the 8th. In *A. tessmanni* the difference is perhaps rather more marked.

In *A. adusta*, the type of *Alseonax*, the 2nd quill is somewhat longer than the 8th, and the same difference is found in *A. epulatus* and *A. fantisiensis*.

I do not, however, consider that this slight difference in the shape of the wing is sufficient reason for recognising *Pedilorhynchus* as a distinct genus.

Alseonax tessmanni (Reichenow).

Muscicapa modesta Sharpe (nec Hartlaub), in A. F. Mockler-Ferryman, 'Up the Niger,' App. vi. p. 310 (1892) [Shonga]; Alexander, Ibis, 1902, p. 329 [Prahsu and Fumsu, Gold Coast].

Pedilorhynchus tessmanni Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. xv. p. 147 (1907) [Rio Benito, Spanish Guinea].

Pedilorhynchus brevirostris Bates, Bull. B. O. C. xxv. p. 28 (1909) [Assobam, Bumba River, Cameroon. Type in the British Museum].

The first person to send an example of this species to England was Capt. A. F. Mockler-Ferryman, who met with it in 1890 at Shonga in Northern Nigeria. The bird was incorrectly identified by Sharpe as *Muscicapa modesta* Hartlaub. Alexander next procured three specimens at Prahsu and Fumsu, on the Gold Coast, in 1900, which, following Sharpe, were also referred to *M. modesta*. As pointed out by

Mr. Bates in his description of *Pedilornis brevis*, this is a larger bird than *Alseonax comitatus* (Cassin). The wing measures : 2 ♂ 75 mm. ; 2 ♀ 72 & 74 mm.

Hab. Gold Coast and Northern Nigeria southwards to Cameroon and Spanish Guinea.

***Alseonax olivascens* (Cassin).**

Parisoma olivascens Cassin, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1859, p. 52 [Camma River, French Congo].

Lioptilus olivascens Sharpe, Haud-l. iii. p. 239 (1901).

Apatema olivascens Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. p. 523 (1905).

Mr. Bates procured three adult females and an immature male from Efulen, Cameroon.

I have examined specimens from Fantee, Gold Coast (*Ussher*); typical examples from the Camma River, French Congo (*Du Chaillu*); Assobam, Bumba River, and Bitye, River Ja, Cameroon (*G. L. Bates*).

***Muscicapa cærulescens* (Hartlaub).**

Butalis cærulescens Hartlaub, Ibis, 1865, p. 268 [Natal, *T. Ayres*. Type in the British Museum.]

Muscicapa cærulescens Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 154 (1879).

This species may be recognised from the allied African Grey Flycatchers by having the base of the lower mandible whitish, a white band from the nostril to the eye, and a white line of plumes above and below the eye, the inner secondary quills margined with white, and the primaries narrowly edged externally with whitish. The general colour above is rather pale grey; the throat white, the sides being rarely tinged with greyish; the breast and flanks pale grey, and the belly and under tail-coverts white.

From *M. c. cinerea* it is distinguished by its larger size and longer tail. The wing-measurements are: ♂ 78-84 mm.; ♀ 77-83 mm. Tail ♂ 60-66 mm.; ♀ 59-64 mm. Specimens procured by A. S. Neave in Northern Rhodesia and the Katanga district are rather larger than any of the rest of the series.

Hab. I have examined examples from Natal (typical). Portuguese East Africa, Rhodesia, and Katanga, northwards to Ankole and British East Africa; also *via* the Zambesi to Damaraland, Benguela, as far north as Canhoça in the southern part of the Loanda district of Angola, where it meets with the following form *M. c. cinerea*.

Muscicapa cærulescens cinerea (Cassin).

Eopsaltria cinerea Cassin, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1856, p. 253 [Moonda River, Gaboon: *Du Chaillu*].

? *Muscicapa modesta* Hartl. Orn. W. Afr. p. 96 (1857) [Gaboon]; Bocage, Journ. Lisb. ii. p. 43 (1870) [Mossamedes].

Hypodes cinerea Cassin, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1859, p. 52 [same type as above].

Muscicapa cassini Heine, J. f. O. 1859, p. 428 [founded on *Muscicapa* —? Cassin, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1859, p. 51, Camma River, French Congo].

Muscicapa cinerascens Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 155 (1899) [Fantee: *Ussher*].

Muscicapa brevicauda Ogilvie-Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 107 (1907); Ibis, 1908, p. 308 [Upper Congo].

The British Museum contains typical examples of *E. cinerea* Cassin, collected by Du Chaillu on the Moonda River, Gaboon. These birds agree perfectly with Cassin's description, as also with the type-specimens of *M. cinerascens* Sharpe and *M. brevicauda* Ogilvie-Grant.

Mr. Witmer Stone ('Auk,' 1914, p. 255) asserts that the present subspecies, *M. c. cinerea* Cassin, is synonymous with *M. lugens* Hartlaub, but this is an error, for the type-specimen of the latter species is in the British Museum, and is a perfectly distinct form, with no white lines of plumes above and below the eye, and without white edges to the primary quills. For remarks on this matter, see Stone, Pr. Ac. Philad. 1889, p. 147; and Stone, 'Auk,' 1914, p. 255.

M. c. cinerea is a rather smaller more northern and western representative form of *M. cærulescens* with a proportionately shorter tail.

Dr. Reichenow has united *M. c. cinerea* (= *M. cinerascens* Sharpe) with *M. carulescens* Hartl., but the former is easily recognised by its proportionately shorter tail, and by other differences.

Wing: ♂ 70-75 mm.; ♀ 68-71 mm.

Birds from N'Dalla Tando, in the northern part of the Loando district of Angola, are somewhat intermediate, having the tail relatively slightly longer than in typical *M. c. cinerea* (tail, 2 ♂ 56, 54 mm. and 2 ♀ 52, 51 mm., as compared with ♂ 50-53 mm. and ♀ 48-51 mm.), but must be referred to *M. c. cinerea*.

Hab. I have examined specimens from the following localities:—Gold Coast, southwards through Cameroon to N'Dalla Tando, northern Angola; eastwards to the Welle River, Upper Congo, and Uganda (Entebbe and Mpumu).

The two forms seem to meet in central Angola.

Another form closely allied to *M. c. cinerea*, if not identical with it, is *Muscicapa modesta* Hartlaub [Orn. W. Afr. p. 96 (1857) Gaboon].

The bird described as *M. modesta* by Sharpe [Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 156 (1879)] from the "River Danger, Gaboon. Henry Ansell, Esq. [P.]," is unquestionably an example, in poor condition, of *Fraseria cinerascens* Hartlaub [cf. Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iii. p. 304 (1877)]. Part of the plumage of this specimen is missing, but all the characters essential for certain identification are still present.

Dr. Reichenow [Vög. Afr. ii. p. 453 (1903)] copied Sharpe's description of his supposed *M. modesta*, but noted that it differed from the original description given by Hartlaub in important points.

Sharpe subsequently identified a specimen of *Alseonax tessmanni* Reichenow with this species.

***Muscicapa lugens* (Hartlaub).**

Butalis lugens Hartlaub, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 110 [Bembe, Angola: *J. J. Monteiro*. Type in the British Museum].

Muscicapa lugens Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iv. p. 155 (1879).

Alseonax melanopectera Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 89 (1906) [Toro: *F. J. Jackson*. Type in the British Museum].

This species is easily recognised from *M. c. cinerea*, which occurs in the same locality, by having only a trace of white between the base of the bill and the eye, the plumes surrounding the eye grey; middle of the throat, middle of the belly, and under tail-coverts white; the rest of the plumage rather dark grey; primary quills black, not edged with white; the bill black, including the lower mandible, which is not whitish or pale towards the base in dry skins.

The wing measures: ♂ 70–73 mm.; ♀ 68–72 mm.

Hab. I have examined specimens from the following localities:—Angola (typical), Gaboon, Cameroon, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Ubangi and Welle Rivers, and Toro, Uganda.

***Muscicapa griseigularis* (Jackson).**

Alseonax griseigularis Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 19 (1906) [Toro. Type in the British Museum].

Parisoma holospodium Bates, Bull. B. O. C. xxv. p. 27 (1909) [Bitye, River Ja, Cameroon. Type in the British Museum].

Muscicapa ansorgei Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xxv. p. 95 (1910) [Ogowe River, Gaboon: *W. J. Ansorge*].

This is a small grey-throated species, with the body rather dark grey, and only the middle of the belly inclining to whitish, and the outer webs of the quills edged with greyish-white. The bill is black with the basal part of the lower mandible pale grey or pale blue.

The wing measures: 6 ♂ 61–65 mm.; 5 ♀ 59–61 mm.

Hab. Specimens have been examined from Uganda and Cameroon. It also occurs in Gaboon.

***Muscicapa toruensis* Hartert.**

Muscicapa toruensis Hartert, Nov. Zool. vii. p. 37 (1900) [Toro]; Ogilvie-Grant, Tr. Zool. Soc. xix. p. 393 (1910) [East Ruwenzori].

This form is most nearly allied to *M. griseigularis* (Jackson), but is much larger and of a paler grey, especially

on the underparts. The throat is uniform grey like the breast, while the rest of the underparts is also grey, but a trifle paler, and usually inclining to whitish towards the middle of the belly. There is a ring of paler grey plumes surrounding the eye, and the quills are margined on the outer edge with dull grey. Bill black, basal part pale bluish.

The wing measures: 5 ♂ 80-84 mm.; 2 ♀ 79, 80 mm.

Hab. Toro, Uganda, and the eastern slopes of Ruwenzori.

Parisoma plumbeum (Hartl.).

Though placed in a different genus from *Muscicapa*, this species closely resembles *Muscicapa* in generic characters, though the nasal bristles are more slender; the under tail-coverts are buff, in slight contrast with the belly, and the wing is perhaps rather longer in proportion to the length of the tail. In males of *Parisoma plumbeum* the wing measures about 68-74 mm. and the tail 59-67 mm., while in *Muscicapa caerulea* the wing is 78-83 mm. and the tail 63-65 mm. In both birds there is a whitish loreal streak and a line of white plumes above and below the eye, the inner secondaries are edged with white, and the primaries narrowly margined with the same on the outer web. The shape of the wing is the same in both birds, the 2nd primary being rather longer than the 8th, and the 4th slightly the longest.

P. plumbeum is, of course, easily recognised by having the outer pair of tail-feathers mostly white, the 5th pair partially so, and the 4th (sometimes also the 3rd) pair tipped with white.

Chloropeta batesi Sharpe.

Chloropeta batesi Sharpe, Ibis, 1905, p. 468.

The species is not, as stated by Sharpe in his original description, very closely allied to *C. kenya* Sharpe, which has the crown dull olive-yellow like the back. In *C. batesi* the crown is darker than the back and forms a distinct cap, being washed with brownish black. *C. batesi* is very closely allied to *C. massaica* Fischer & Reichw., but the latter has the mantle and back yellow and of a lighter tint.

Chloropeta schubotzi Reichenow [Orn. Monatsb. xvi. p. 119 (1908)], from Lugegu Forest, East Africa, is very closely allied to *C. kenya* Sharpe, which occurs on Mt. Kenia, Kikuyu, and eastern Ruwenzori [cf. Ogilvie-Grant, Tr. Zool. Soc. xix. p. 395 (1910)] but has rather darker olive upper parts.

***Hyliota violacea* Verr.**

Two female examples of *Hyliota* procured at Bitye, River Ja, in May and September, appear to be referable to *H. violacea* Verr., of which the female, according to Dr. Reichenow [Vög. Afr. ii. p. 474 (1903)], is unknown. The male has the three or four innermost greater secondary coverts white, or mostly white, forming a distinct patch; in the female these feathers are black with white at the base, and narrowly bordered with white on the terminal portion of the outer web. Moreover, in both these females the entire underparts from the chin to the belly are rufous buff. A third female specimen, procured by Mr. Bates in June 1906, is in all respects similar to the above.

***Alethe poliocephala* (Bonap.).**

Trichophorus poliocephalus (Temminck MS.) Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 262 (1850).

To the synonymy given in Reichw. Vög. Afr. iii. p. 746 (1905) should be added:

Alethe moori Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 37 (1902) [Bakaki, Fernando Po].

An adult male killed on the 4th of April, 1914, has very little black on the chin; the white of the throat extends nearly to the angle between the rami of the lower mandible.

***Fraseria cinerascens* Hartl.**

An example of this species was described by Sharpe as *Muscicapa modesta* Hartlaub (cf. p. 87).

The young bird of this species is distinguished from the young of *F. ocreata* (Strickl.), also procured by Mr. Bates, in having the breast mottled and spotted with dusky and pale buff. In *F. ocreata* it is mostly white.